GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3197
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2001
MINIMUM WAGES TO LABOURERS
RAJESH RANJAN (PAPPU YADAV)

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether minimum wages fixed by the Government are not paid to their labourers by private contractors/companies;

(b) if so, whether most of the Government works are done by the private agencies and they exploit their own labourers; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to check such tendencies?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) to (c): The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 provides for fixation, revision and enforcement of minimum wages to the workers in the scheduled employments both in Central and the State spheres. In the Central sphere the officers of the Central Industrial Relations machinery secure enforcement and in the State sphere, the State enforcement machineries ensure implementation of the Act. The officers of these machineries who are appointed as Inspectors in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the Act, conduct regular inspections of the establishments including the contractors and direct the employers to make payment of shortfall of wages whenever any case of non-payment or less payment of minimum wages is noticed by them. There are legal and penal actions provided in the Act against the defaulting employers.
Further, the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, make the contractors responsible to pay wages to the workers before expiry of the prescribed period in the presence of the authorised representatives of the Principal Employers.